

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Whitehouse, et al  
Serial No.: 09/423,471  
Filed: May 17, 1997  
Group Art Unit: 2879  
For: CONFIGURATION OF AN ATMOSPHERIC  
PRESSURE ION SOURCE  
Docket No.: 840.059.301

October 18, 2004

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**VIA FAX (703) 872-9306**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATUS LETTER**

Sir:

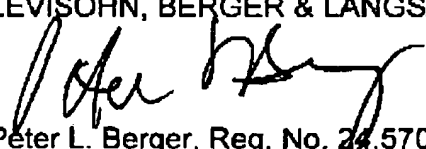
The above captioned has an effective filing date of May 17, 1997. The PTO misplaced the proper documents filed on March 28, 2000, which occasioned the applicant filing to reinstate this application. Finally, on September 18, 2002, applicant's petitions were granted and this case was sent for examination.

It is now over two years since that time and, considering that this application has an effective filing date of 1997 or as late as 1998, applicant is waiting six (6) years for a first examination.

We request that this case be taken up on special accelerated examination as it is completely unfair that the applicant has waited so long for a first office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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